TECHNIQUE FOR PROVISIONING STORAGE FOR SERVERS IN AN ON-DEMAND ENVIRONMENT

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Servers and storage in a Storage Area Network (SAN) are dynamically allocated to a system user, such as a customer or an application, by identifying at least one master storage image that is in the storage and that will be associated with a system user when a server is allocated to the system user is identified. A plurality of replicas of each identified master storage image is generated prior to at least one server being allocated to the system user. A selected replica of the plurality of replicas of the master storage image is allocated to each server allocated to the system user. Each time a server is de-allocated, the corresponding replica is de-allocated and assigned to a pool of de-allocated replicas. The pool of de-allocated replicas is configured to automatically scrub all replicas, such as by reformatting, when the number of de-allocated replicas equals a predetermined number.